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UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS - WRITER EPISODE NO. 426

OK

WMAQ BLUE

11:30-12:30 PM CST

MARCH 14, 1941

FRI DAY

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TIME

DATE _____

DAY

REMARKS

1. ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers! old Bear Creek District. My
2. MUSIC: THEME Forest Service job, it was, Jerry. In those days,
3. ANNOUNCER: Fifty years have passed since the first Forest Reserves,
4. now our National Forests, had their beginning. As we
5. BESS: prepare to celebrate this fiftieth anniversary of the
6. oldest of our National Forests we should, I think, pay
7. MARY: tribute to the old-time forest rangers - those stalwart
8. JIM: men, who, in the early days of the Forest Service, strove
9. valiantly, unceasingly, and often single-handedly, against
10. any and all odds, to help bring our National Forests to
11. their present position of value and service to the
12. JERRY: American public.....John Gardner was one of these men, one
13. of those early-day forest officers whose every thought and
14. JIM: hope and fear was for the Forest Service; who helped build
15. our National Forests and who became a living part of the
16. traditions of the Forest Service. As we look in on our
17. friends on the Pine Cone National Forest, we find Ranger
18. Jim Robbins talking about John Gardner to his wife Bess,
19. his assistant, Jerry Quick, and Jerry's sweetheart, Mary
20. Halloway. Supper is over and they are all in the livingroom
21. of the Ranger Station. Here they are: to give him
22. JIM: Yep, when Doc Peters called me this afternoon and told me
23. JERRY: how weak John was getting, I couldn't help thinking back to
24. those early days when I first got to know him.
25. JERRY: You were a fire lookout when he was your chief weren't you,
Jim?

1. JIM: Yes, I was fire guard on the old Deer Creek District. My
2. first Forest Service job, it was, Jerry. In those days,
3. John Gardner was a man of action, blunt, to the
4. point, and impatient of any delay. ~~sooner than he told us~~
5. BESS: Tell Mary and Jerry about that first visit he made to your
6. station, Jim, when he was so mad. ~~by of district office~~
7. MARY: Yes, do, Mr. Robbins.
8. JIM: Well, I hadn't been on the job but a week or so. And I'd
9. ~~JIM:~~ spent most of my time cleaning up around the place. It was
10. just 'fore fire season and I was sorta proud of all I'd done.
11. The station looked spick and span. ~~as he put it. They'd~~
12. JERRY: Yeah, I know. And old John found some dust on your ~~then~~
13. firefinder and bawled the daylights out of you, huh? ~~he~~
14. JIM: Not a bit of it, Jerry. Just as plain as if it was
15. yesterday, I can see him when he rode up to the old station
16. that afternoon on his fast-stepping roan horse, Sandy. When
17. ~~JERRY:~~ he got down off his horse, I noticed how his wiry mustache
18. was twitching and I could see fire in his eyes. He didn't
19. ~~JIM:~~ take time to even say hello. He just stood there and cut
20. loose with the most emphatic and colorful words I'd ever
21. heard up to then or since. That seemed to give him ~~as not~~
22. considerable satisfaction. ~~he travelled many a long mile~~
23. JERRY: You mean you just stood there and took it, Jim? I don't
24. think I'd..... ~~the nose and eyes of his horse to guide him.~~
25. ~~It's hard for me to believe he's really had off, like Doc~~
~~says.~~

1. Yes, I was five years on the old Deer Creek District. My
2. first Forest Service job, it was, Jerry. In those days,
3. John Gardner was a man of action, blunt, to the
4. point, and impatient of any delay.
5. Tell Mary and Jerry about that first visit he made to your
6. station, Jim, when he was so mad.
7. Yes, do, Mr. Robbins. MARY:
8. Well, I hadn't been on the job but a week or so. And I'd
9. spent most of my time cleaning up around the place. It was
10. just 'fore the season and I was sort of proud of all I'd do
11. The station looked spick and span.
12. Yeah, I know. And old John found some dust on your
13. fireboard and hauled the daylight out of you, huh?
14. Not a bit of it, Jerry. Just as plain as if it was
15. yesterday. I can see him when he rode up to the old station
16. that afternoon on his fast-stepping roan horse, Bandy. Wh
17. he got down off his horse, I noticed how his wiry mustache
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19. take time to even say hello. He just stood there and out
20. loose with the most emphatic and colorful words I'd ever
21. heard up to then or since. That seemed to give him
22. considerable satisfaction.
23. You mean you just stood there and took it, Jim? I don't
24. think I'd.....
25.

1. JIM: You'd have done what I did, Jerry. Just listened. And
2. JIM: besides after awhile I discovered he wasn't directin' his
3. strong words at me. No sir. He was letting off steam,
4. that's all. And when he'd let off enough steam he told me
5. MARY: all about it. Seems like he'd been travellin' all day
6. with the supervisor and a big party of district office
7. JIM: inspectors. John retired some years ago, Mary, he made up
8. MARY: Then he didn't come to inspect your station after all?
9. JIM: No, Mary. What got him down was the fact he'd been out
10. all day with this party and they'd only covered twenty
11. miles, poking along at a snail's pace as he put it. They'd
12. moved on to another district and now that he'd gotten them
13. MARY: off his chest he was free to attend to some business he
14. considered more important like stopping some timber
15. trespassing up in the valley and trying to put an end to a
16. cattle and sheepmen's war that was going on then.
17. JERRY: It's hard to believe the way he looks now that John Gardner
18. JIM: was like you say he was, Jim.
19. JIM: John's almost 80, Jerry. Age takes it out of you, but when
20. RECEIVED OFF he was young there was no such thing as an eight hour day
21. JIM: for John. He worked from daylight to dark and often as not,
22. like most of the old timers, he travelled many a long mile
23. 'cross rough country at night, dependin' on the light of
24. the stars or the nose and eyes of his horse to guide him.
25. JERRY: It's hard for me to believe he's really bad off, like Doc
says.

You'd have done what I did, Jerry. Just listened. And besides after awhile I discovered he wasn't directing his strong words at me. No sir. He was letting off steam that's all. And when he'd let off enough steam he told me all about it. Seems like he'd been travelling all day with the supervisor and a big party of district office inspectors.

Then he didn't come to inspect your station after all. No, Mary. What got him down was the fact he'd been out all day with this party and they'd only covered twenty miles, poking along at a snail's pace as he put it. They moved on to another district and now that he'd gotten them off his chest he was free to attend to some business he considered more important like stopping some timber trespassing up in the valley and trying to put an end to cattle and sheepmen's war that was going on then.

It's hard to believe the way he looks now that John Garmon was like you say he was, Jim.

John's almost 80, Jerry. Age takes it out of you, but when he was young there was no such thing as an eight hour day for John. He worked from daylight to dark and often as no like most of the old timers, he travelled many a long mile across rough country at night, depending on the light of the stars or the nose and eyes of his horse to guide him. It's hard for me to believe he's really had off, like Doc

says.

JIM:

MARY:

JIM:

JERRY:

JIM:

1. BESS: You're going to see him, aren't you, Jim?

2. JIM: I told Doc Peters to call me if he took a turn for the

3. worse. I expect I'll ride over there tomorrow, though,

4. whether Doc calls or not.

5. MARY: How did Mr. Gardner happen to build his little cabin there,

6. right by the National Forest boundary, Mr. Robbins?

7. JIM: Well, when John retired some years ago, Mary, he made up

8. his mind he wasn't going to leave this country where he'd

9. lived and worked most of his life, so he settled right

10. there where he could be near the Forest. He's been mighty

11. interested in everything we've been doing even though he

12. hasn't been so active these past few years.

13. MARY: His place has been a regular center of attraction for all

14. the youngsters in town. They love to visit him and hear

15. his stories about the early work of the Forest Service.

16. They'd miss him terribly if he.....

17. SOUND OF TELEPHONE RINGING

18. JIM: There's the telephone. I'll answer it.....

19. BESS: I hope it isn't about Old John.

20. RECEIVER OFF

21. JIM: Hello, Jim Robbins talking....Who?...Oh yeah, Doc Peters..

22. What's that? H-m-m-m. That's too bad, Doc...Huh?...You

23. say he's been asking for me?...You bet. We'll be right

24. over. Yes....Thanks.... Goodbye (RECEIVER UP).

25. JERRY: Old John Gardner's getting worse, huh Jim?

1. JIM: Yeah, Jerry. And Doc Peters says he's been asking special
2. for me. I'm going to ride over to his place right now.
3. BESS: I'd like to come along, Jim, if it'll be all right.
4. MARY: May I go too, Mr. Robbins?
5. JIM: Yeah, I guess we can all go....Jerry, get the car out, will
6. you?
7. JERRY: Sure. (FADE) Meet you out front.
8. JIM: I'm proud John wants to see me but I can't imagine (FADE)
9. what for.
10. PAUSE
11. SOUND OF CAR PULLING TO STOP
12. JIM: Well, here we are. There's John's cabin over there.
13. Suppose you wait here 'til I talk to Doc Peters and find out
14. if we can see John.
15. (CAR DOOR OPENS AND SLAMS SHUT)
16. BESS: Take your time, Jim.
17. JIM: (GOING OFF) I'll be right back, Bess.
18. JERRY: Old John has made a regular show-place here, hasn't he?
19. MARY: I think it's lovely. With the tall pines and the little
20. log cabin, and that pretty picnic spot down there near the
21. creek. He lets everybody use it.
22. BESS: It just seems that John had to keep on doing public service
23. even after he retired.
24. JERRY: I understand though that he hasn't been able to keep up with
25. the tax payments, Mrs. Robbins. The county's left him alone
these past few years but they'll probably put this land up
for sale if he dies.

1. BESS: Yes, Jim was talking about that the other day. Jim says...

2. MARY: Here comes Mr. Robbins now.

3. JIM: (COMING ON) It's all right. Doc says John's pretty weak

4. but he wants to see us, all of us. Doc's gone down the

5. road to Thompson's for a breather, so we can go on in.

6. CAR DOORS OPEN AND CLOSE....SOUND OF FOOT STEPS ON GRAVEL

7. JIM: Doc says Old John doesn't have much time left, and he

8. couldn't tell me why John wanted to see me special.

9. BESS: Maybe Doc's wrong, Jim. About John's condition, I mean.

10. JIM: I'm afraid not, Bess....Well, I guess we can go on in....

11. (DOOR OPENS AND CLOSSES)

12. JOHN: (OFF, IN HUSKY VOICE) That you, Jim? Come in, come in.

13. All of you.

14. JIM: Hello, John. You know Bess here and Jerry and Mary Halloway.

15. JOHN: Don't be so doggeded formal, Jim. Course I know them.

16. How're you, Bess? And young Miss Halloway? And Jerry?....

17. Say, when you two going to get hitched, anyway? Let me

18. tell you something, young man, don't you go on and do what

19. I.....

20. JIM: Doc Peters said you weren't to talk much, John.

21. JOHN: Bother Doc Peters! That old Saw Bones don't know everything.

22. I'll talk as much as I like....(COUGHS) 'Scuse me...Bess,

23. has Jim here been treating you all right?

24. BESS: As good as can be expected, Uncle John.

25.

They're not talking about that the other day, they're

there's a lot of things that

(SOUND OF A CAR ENGINE) The car's not moving, it's

not to move, we see it, all of it, it's not moving

lead to the car, for a moment, so we can go on the

CAR: (SOUND OF A CAR ENGINE) ... (SOUND OF A CAR ENGINE)

JOHN: (SOUND OF A CAR ENGINE) ... (SOUND OF A CAR ENGINE)

JOHN: (SOUND OF A CAR ENGINE) ... (SOUND OF A CAR ENGINE)

JOHN: (SOUND OF A CAR ENGINE) ... (SOUND OF A CAR ENGINE)

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(SOUND OF A CAR ENGINE) ... (SOUND OF A CAR ENGINE)

JOHN: (SOUND OF A CAR ENGINE) ... (SOUND OF A CAR ENGINE)

All of you

JOHN: (SOUND OF A CAR ENGINE) ... (SOUND OF A CAR ENGINE)

JOHN: (SOUND OF A CAR ENGINE) ... (SOUND OF A CAR ENGINE)

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1. JOHN: Well, he'd better. If he don't you just do him like that
2. old balky mule did one summer when Jim was a young peanut
3. of a fire guard.

4. JIM: Hey now, John. You promised you'd never tell about that.

5. JOHN: Promises be hanged...(COUGHS) 'Souse me....Well, here's
6. the story. Jim, here, was headed up to his station with
7. supplies this day it all happened. His pack mule was
8. Sadie, the most cantankerous, pesky, balky critter you
9. ever saw. We got about half way up the mountain with Jim
10. ridin' up front and me holdin' up the rear when old Sadie
11. decided she didn't want to go another step.

12. JIM: John, you oughtn't talk so much. I'll tell the rest of
13. the story if you're bound they should hear it.

14. JOHN: No such thing! (CHUCKLES) I'll tell it and in my own way.
15. Well, there we were. Getting dark, it was, and a mule that
16. wouldn't budge a step. I just sat there waitin' to see what
17. my young whippersnapper of a guard would do. Well, you
18. never heard, never saw such goings on in your life. In my
19. mind I gave Jim, here, a passing mark on cussing and about
20. fifty percent on pulling power. He did manage to pull the
21. old mule a couple feet which was some doing, I can tell you
22. her being heavily loaded like she was. But then (CHUCKLES)

23. JIM: I'd learned it from my grandfather, John. It just didn't
24. work right, that's all.

25. JOHN: And then, Jim gets the bright idea that he ought to bite
that pesky mule's ear.

1. MARY: Oh, no.

2. BESS: You didn't, Jim!

3. JERRY: (LAUGHS) Boy, oh boy, I can just see it!

4. JOHN: (CHUCKLES) Well, sir, that's just what Jim, here, up and

5. did. He got a good hold on that mule's ear with his teeth

6. and presses hard. (COUGHS) 'Souse me. Where was I? Oh,

7. yes. Soon as Jim bears down with his teeth, old Sadie

8. went sky high in the air. And almost before I knew what'd

9. happened there was Jim crawling out of the bushes, rubbing

10. his back, some twelve, fifteen feet away. (ALL LAUGH)

11. Old Sadie resented that ear-biting trick of Jim's and

12. lifted him clear away from there.

13. JIM: (DRYLY) Seems to me you're doing a lot of talking for

14. once, John.

15. JOHN: It's about time, ain't it? (COUGHS) 'Souse me.

16. JIM: Doc Peters said you wanted to see me special about

17. something, John?

18. JOHN: Yeah, that's right, Jim. Look, I've been laying here these

19. last few days, thinkin' about a lot of things. Specially

20. about this place of mine. (COUGHS SEVERAL TIMES)

21. JIM: Yes, go on, John.

22. JOHN: I finally got it all worked out. And you're mixed up in

23. it, Jim. That's why I wanted to see you so bad.

24. JIM: You know I'll help out any way I can, John.

25.

1. JOHN: I knew you would....Well, I'm leaving this place to the
 2. government. I think maybe they'll stretch their boundary
 3. a little to include these forty acres of mine, and I want
 4. you, Jim, to.....

5. JERRY: (ASIDE TO MARY) Old John's forgotten about the taxes, Mary.
 6. JOHN: Like I say, I want you to be my execa....executor, Jim.
 7. You're probably thinkin' I've forgotten about the back
 8. taxes. Well, I ain't. And that's where you come in. You
 9. know yourself I ain't let no timber be cut yet on this whole
 10. place and there's a good stand of pine here. Worth a lot
 11. more than those old taxes amount to (COUGHS) 'Scuse me.
 12. Well, I worked up a sort of cutting plan for this place of
 13. mine. Even marked the trees that can be cut. I allowed a
 14. little, my judgment in measuring and figuring not being
 15. what it used to be, so you can pay those back taxes and
 16. Uncle Sam can have what's left and welcome to it. (COUGHS)
 17. (VOICE BECOMES LOWER) This old cabin of mine and the pines
 18. and....

19. JIM: (ASIDE TO JERRY) Go get Doc Peters, Jerry. Hurry!

20. JERRY: (WHISPERS) OK Jim. I'll just slip out.

21. JOHN: (WEAKLY) And I want this place to be made into a regular
 22. recreation area for the kids all around. You hear me all
 23. right, Jim? (COUGHS)

24. JIM: I understand, John. And we'll call it the Gardner Recreation
 25. Area.

1. JOHN: (WEAKLY) Say, that's fine, mighty fine. Look, Jim,
2. there's one more favor I got to ask. Come over here,
3. closer. I'm findin' out I can't holler like I used to.
4. BESS: (TO MARY) Let's go out to the car, Mary.....(WHISPERS)
5. Good bye, Uncle John.
6. MARY: (BROKENLY) (FADING) Goodbye.
7. PAUSE:
8. BESS: (FADING IN) How is he now, Jerry?
9. JERRY: Old John seemed very happy when I brought Doc Peters in
10. to him, but Doc doesn't expect him to last 'til morning.
11. JIM: He's had as full and useful a life as any man could ask.
12. BESS: The Gardner Recreation Area. That's a fine thing for him
13. to do, isn't it, Jim, and what a wonderful memorial to
14. him.
15. MARY: What was the last favor he asked, Mr. Robbins? Can you
16. tell us?
17. JIM: Why, yes, Mary. He asked me to get out his old Forest
18. Ranger Badge and pin it on his night shirt, over his heart.
19. He told me it made him feel almost like he was going out
20. (FADE) with his boots on.
21. MUSIC: FINALE
22. ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each Friday over the
23. National Broadcasting Company with the cooperation of the
24. United States Forest Service.
25. # # #

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United States Forest Service.

23. National Broadcasting Company with the cooperation of the
22. Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each Friday over

MUSIC:

FINALE

(FADE) with his boots on.

19. He told me it made him feel almost like he was going out
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JIM:

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MARY:

What was the last favor he asked, Mr. Robbins? Can you

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BESS:

The Gardner Restoration Area. That's a fine thing for him

JIM:

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JERRY:

Old John seemed very happy when I brought Doc Peters in

BESS:

(FADING IN) How is he now, Jerry?

PAUSE:

(BROKENLY) (FADING) Goodbye.

MARY:

Good bye, Uncle John.

BESS:

(TO MARY) Let's go out to the car, Mary....(WHISPERS)

JOHN:

(WEAKLY) Say, what's time, mighty time. Look, Jim,